

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (currently amended): Apparatus for rotatably holding a paper supply roll,
2 having a cylindrical peripheral surface and a hollow cylindrical core, within a
3 printer, wherein the apparatus comprises:

4 a lower support surface for engaging the peripheral surface of the paper
5 supply roll;

6 a cavity for holding the paper supply roll, extending within the printer
7 above the lower support surface;

8 a pair of spaced-apart side plates disposed within the cavity, wherein each
9 of the side plates includes a mounting structure;

10 a bearing member held within each of the mounting structures, wherein
11 the bearing members are held in axial alignment with one another, wherein each
12 of the bearing members includes a tapered surface for engaging the hollow
13 cylindrical core, wherein each of the bearing members is mounted to be moved
14 between an inward position having the tapered surface of the bearing member
15 disposed within the space between the side plates and an outward position
16 having the tapered surface of the bearing member held out of the space between
17 the side plates, ~~and~~ wherein each of the bearing members is held in the inward
18 position and in the outward position, and wherein the paper roll is rotatably
19 supported within the cavity by the lower support surface and the pair of spaced-
20 apart side plates as a web is pulled from the paper roll with the bearing members
21 held in the outward position.

1 2. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 4 6, wherein said tapered
2 surface includes a portion of a sphere.

1 3. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 4 6, wherein each said
2 mounting structure includes a spring pushing said bearing member inward.

1 4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4 6, additionally comprising a
2 pivoting structure including said pair of spaced-apart side plates, wherein said
3 pivoting structure is opened to load said paper supply roll into said apparatus and
4 closed to print on a paper web from said paper supply roll.

1 5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein
2 each of said bearing members includes a flat surface opposite said
3 tapered surface, and

4 each said bearing member is held within said mounting structure in said
5 inward position, with said tapered surface facing inward, and in said outward
6 position, with said tapered surface facing outward.

1 6. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 5, wherein~~ Apparatus for
2 rotatably holding a paper supply roll, having a cylindrical peripheral surface and a
3 hollow cylindrical core, within a printer, wherein the apparatus comprises:

4 _____ a lower support surface for engaging the peripheral surface of the paper
5 supply roll;

6 _____ a cavity for holding the paper supply roll, extending within the printer
7 above the lower support surface;

8 _____ a pair of spaced-apart side plates disposed within the cavity, wherein each
9 of the side plates includes a mounting structure; and

10 _____ a bearing member held within each of the mounting structures, wherein
11 the bearing members are held in axial alignment with one another, wherein

12 each of the bearing members includes a tapered surface for
13 engaging the hollow cylindrical core,

14 each of the bearing members is mounted to be moved between an
15 inward position having the tapered surface of the bearing member
16 in an outward position having the tapered surface of the bearing member held out of
17 the space between the side plates,

18 each of the bearing members is held in the inward position and in
19 the outward position, and a flat surface opposite said tapered surface,

20 each said bearing member is held within said mounting structure in
21 said inward position, with said tapered surface facing inward, and in said
22 outward position, with said tapered surface facing outward.

23 each said bearing member includes parallel slots extending along
24 opposite sides of said bearing member and a hole extending through said
25 bearing member between said parallel slots, and

26 each said mounting structure is formed as a wire spring, pushing
27 said bearing member inward, including a pair of legs extending within the
28 slots at each side of said bearing member and an end portion extending
29 from each of the legs within the hole extending through said bearing
30 member.

1 7. (original): The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said mounting structure
2 additionally includes a U-shaped portion with an open end extending from an end
3 of each of said legs extending within the slots at each side of said bearing
4 member.

1 8. (original): The apparatus of claim 7, additionally comprising a pair of hook-
2 shaped structures holding each said mounting structure against opposite sides of
3 said bearing member and holding said mounting structure to push said bearing
4 member inward.

1 9. (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said bearing member is held
2 in said mounting structure in said inward position, with said tapered section
3 facing inward within said space between said side plates, and in said outward
4 position, with said tapered section facing inward outside said space between said
5 side plates.

1 10 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein

2 each said mounting structure includes a tubular portion extending outward
3 from one of said side plates, including a slot extending inward,

4 each of said bearing members is pivotably and slidably mounted within the
5 tubular portion, and

6 each of said bearing members includes a shoulder having a tab extending
7 inward within the slot of the tubular portion with said bearing member in said
8 inward position,

9 the tab is held against an outer surface of the tubular portion with said
10 bearing member in said outward position.

1 11. (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 10, additionally including a pair of
2 springs, wherein each of said springs pushes one of said bearing members
3 inward.

12. (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each said bearing structure additionally includes a lever for rotating said bearing structure within said mounting structure between said inward and outward positions.

13-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 13,~~ Apparatus for rotatably holding an end of a paper supply roll, having a cylindrical peripheral surface and a hollow cylindrical core, within a printer, wherein the apparatus comprises

a bearing member including a tapered surface for engaging the hollow cylindrical core and a flat surface opposite said tapered surface wherein said bearing member includes parallel slots extending along opposite sides of said bearing member and a hole extending through said bearing member between said parallel slots; and

a side plate including a mounting structure holding the bearing member in an inward position with the tapered surface facing in an inward direction to engage the hollow cylindrical core and in an outward position, with the tapered surface facing opposite the inward direction, and wherein said mounting structure is formed as a wire spring, pushing said bearing member inward, including a pair of legs extending within the slots at each side of said bearing member and an end portion extending from each of the legs within the hole extending through said bearing member.

16. (original): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said mounting structure additionally includes a U-shaped portion with an open end extending from an end of each of said legs extending within the slots at each side of said bearing member.

17 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, additionally comprising a pair of hook-shaped structures holding each said mounting structure against opposite sides of said bearing member and holding said mounting structure to push said bearing member inward.

18 (canceled):

19. (withdrawn-currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~48~~ 20, wherein said tapered surface includes a portion of a sphere.

20 (withdrawn-currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 18,~~ Apparatus for rotatably holding an end of a paper supply roll, having a cylindrical peripheral surface and a hollow cylindrical core, within a printer, wherein the apparatus comprises

_____ a bearing member including a tapered surface for engaging the hollow cylindrical core; and

_____ a side plate including a mounting structure holding said bearing member in an inward position with the tapered surface engaging the hollow cylindrical core and in an outward position, with said tapered surface held out of engagement with the hollow cylindrical core, wherein

said mounting structure includes a tubular portion extending outward from one of said side plates, including a slot extending inward,

said bearing member is pivotably and slidably mounted within said tubular portion, and

said bearing member includes a shoulder having a tab extending inward within the slot of the tubular portion with said bearing member in

17 said inward position, and
18 the tab is held against an outer surface of the tubular portion with
19 said bearing member in said outward position.

1 21 (withdrawn-currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~18~~ 20, additionally
2 comprising a spring pushing said bearing member inward.

1 22. (withdrawn-currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~18~~ 20, wherein said
2 bearing structure additionally includes a lever for rotating said bearing structure
3 within said mounting structure between said inward and outward positions.